

Orange Factory Village, House No. 8
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 C

HABS
NC,
OR-ORFA
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HABS
NC,
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 8 HABS-No. NC-9 C

Location: Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 8)
USCS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner: Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant: Demolished, summer 1984

Significance: The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850's to 1860's
2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HAF No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house stands.
3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two-story, three-bay wide frame house is original. Original windows and doors retain their simple Greek Revival trim. Interior has central hall with room on either side.
4. Alterations and additions: The one-story shed roof porch across the front and electricity were added about 1916. One-story frame ell on left rear was constructed at an undertermined date. Brick chimney has been covered with stucco and flush sheathing on interior walls and ceiling replaced with sheetrock and ceiling tiles.

B. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 8)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural vernacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.
2. Condition of the fabric: The exterior masonry was in sound condition as were the clapboard walls, windows and doors. Roofs were generally in good condition. The structure was scheduled to be demolished during the summer of 1984.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house is "L" shaped in plan. The main section of the house is 30'-4" long by 18'-3" wide with a rear wing measuring 24'-0" x 13'-11".
2. Foundations: The foundation walls are a combination of brick piers with block infill on the main portion of the house and concrete block beneath the porches and rear wing.
3. Walls: Exterior walls are sheathed with painted wood clapboarding with a 5" exposure and plain double corner boards. The walls of the rear porch are partly sheathed in plywood.
4. Structural system, framing: The structural system of the house is simple wood stud walls, wood floor joists and rafters.
5. Porches: The front porch measures 30'-4" long by 7'-8" wide. The perimeter beneath the concrete slab deck has been infilled with concrete block. The simple hipped roof is covered with standing seam tin and is supported by four (4) iron trellis supports. Concrete steps with iron railings lead from the porch to grade. A rear screened porch measuring 6'-8" x 15'-7" has a wood floor with concrete block infill beneath, plywood and wire screened walls above, capped with a standing seamed tin shed roof.
6. Chimneys: The main chimney, located at the west end of the main portion of the house is hipped at the second floor and

terminated with a corbelled cap. It is constructed of brick which was subsequently stuccoed. A small terra-cotta pipe chimney with a metal cap served a wood stove in the rear wing.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: A fluted architrave with corner blocks surrounds a five (5) panel door at the front of the house.
- b. Windows: The six over six double hung window sash are typical throughout the house. The architraves on the main section of the house are fluted and have corner blocks. The architraves on the rear wing consist of simple unarticulated boards.
- c. Dormers, towers: Not applicable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Cellar: The entire house is built over a raised crawl space with a dirt floor.
 - b. First floor: A centrally located front entrance door leads from the porch into a center hall. The hall goes the depth of the main section to a door leading to a rear porch. A winding, boxed stair leads from the rear of the hall to the second floor. On the east side of the hall is a bedroom and bathroom. A parlor with fireplace is on the west side of the hall. A doorway from the parlor leads into two successive spaces to south (rear) portion of the house.
 - c. Second floor: The stair to the second floor terminates in a large bedroom at one end of which is a fireplace which has been infilled. A smaller bedroom is on the other side of the stair.
 - d. Attic: Inaccessible.
2. Stairway: The single stair leading from the first to the second floor is an enclosed stair with a window and no door at the bottom. Wood treads and risers are exposed.
3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the house is painted, tongue and groove pine flooring. Linoleum tile was installed over the pine flooring in the hallway.

4. Walls and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings were plastered; walls were painted or papered; ceilings were painted.
5. Doorways and doors: Typically, doorway architraves consisted of simple, unarticulated boards. The doors ranged from four (4) to six (6) panels. A few doors had been cut down and/or hung upside down.
6. Decorative features: The only distinctive decorative features were the fluted window surrounds and the simplistic fireplace mantel shelf with simple bracket supports.
7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.
 - b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.
 - c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces north, built along an undesignated dirt road which connects to Old Orange Factory Road. The size of the lot is not known.
2. Outbuildings: None.
3. Landscaping, enclosures: The landscaping consists of a few flowers, a grass lawn, and a few nearby trees.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark Delaware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.